TELEPHONE TALK

Vol. 38, No. 1 BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE COMPANY January-February, 1948



A "New Look" —Photo by Bridgman's Studio



—Photo by Leonard Frank

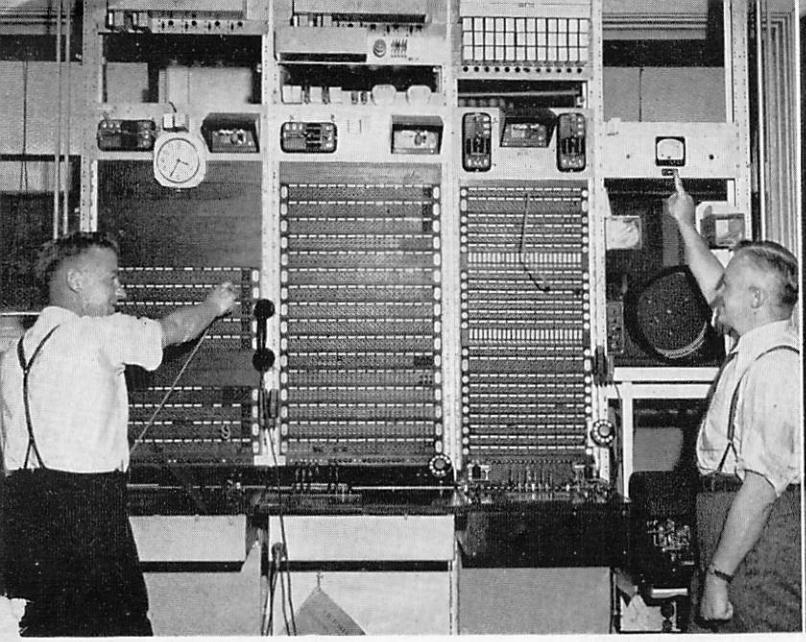
Howe Sound [illegible] Park, West Vancouver.

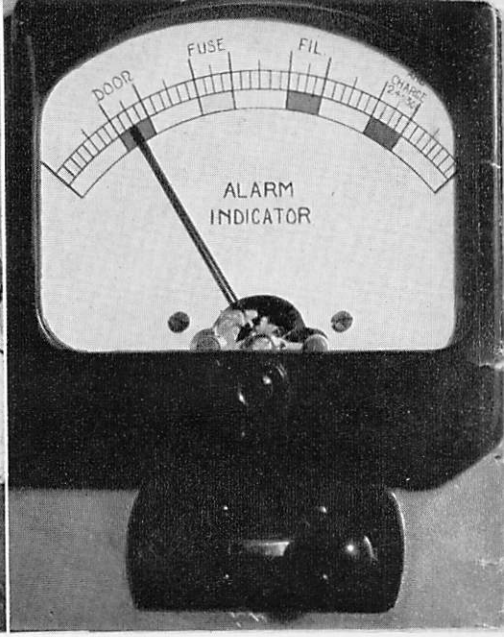
Operator and Artist



—Photo by Dominion Photo Co.

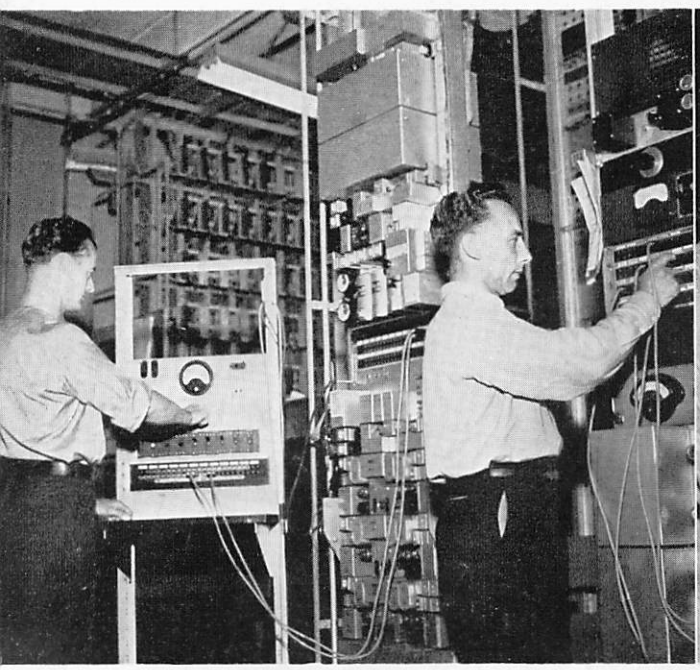
Miss Mary Forrest, of the Bayview operating staff, spends many of her off-duty hours either at the easel or, if the weather is suitable, in the air. Studying art under Gerald Tyler, curator of Vancouver's art gallery, she is pictured above in his studio copying Indian leopards in oils. At the airport, Miss Forrest takes flying lessons and is building up flying hours in order to obtain her private pilot's license.

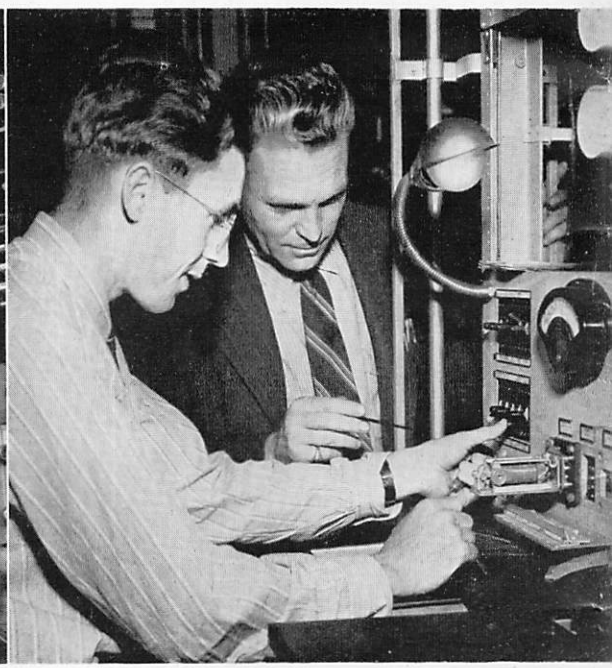




—Photos by Duncan Macphail

To the layman, a toll test board is a pretty complicated piece of mechanism, but to old hands like Wilf Sturrock and N. N. Chamberlain of Victoria it's a simple proposition. Sturrock is shown at the left plugging in on the board, while Chamberlain points to the alarm indicator shown in more detail at the right. The indicator keeps a remote control watch on the long distance repeater station at Swartz Bay which serves the Victoria end of the cable between the capital city and Vancouver. If anyone enters the unattended repeater station, the opening of the door transmits a pulse to the alarm indicator in Victoria which moves the dial hand to "door". Similarly it registers blown fuses, burned out tubes and power failures by moving the hand across the dial. Vancouver toll has a similar alarm system for the repeater station at Point Roberts.





—Photos by Duncan Macphail

The work of men who work with long distance circuits is never done, and the equipment in the toll test room at Victoria needs as much attention as any. Shown in the left-hand picture, Archie Hardy manipulates the mobile tester, while Don MacLoud plugs in on the broadcast panel. At the right J. Harper, left, and Reg Kaltenbach, then toll wire chief and now district plant manager at Nanaimo, adjust teletype relays.



There are litter-ally twelve pups here! And famous ones they are, too. Offspring of "Maxine", a Doberman-Pinscher belonging to Miss Violet Knowles, Glenburn supervisor, they posed for George Young, Vancouver Sun photographer, and the photo received wide distribution through a news syndicate. Then Ross Beesley, Associated Screen News cameraman, became interested. The pups became screen stars and have been appearing in recent news reels.



—Photo by Dominion Photo Co.

Here is Miss Violet Knowles, Glenburn supervisor, with one of the twelve pups, introduced above, and "Maxine", the pups' mother.

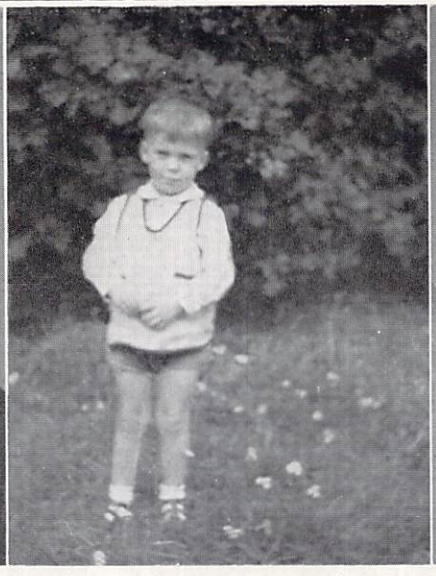


Miss Thelma Rudolf and Miss Mabel Millar, Bayview supervisors, are pictured at the Radium Hot Springs on their holidays.

Revenue Accounting Girls "Adopt" Three Orphans





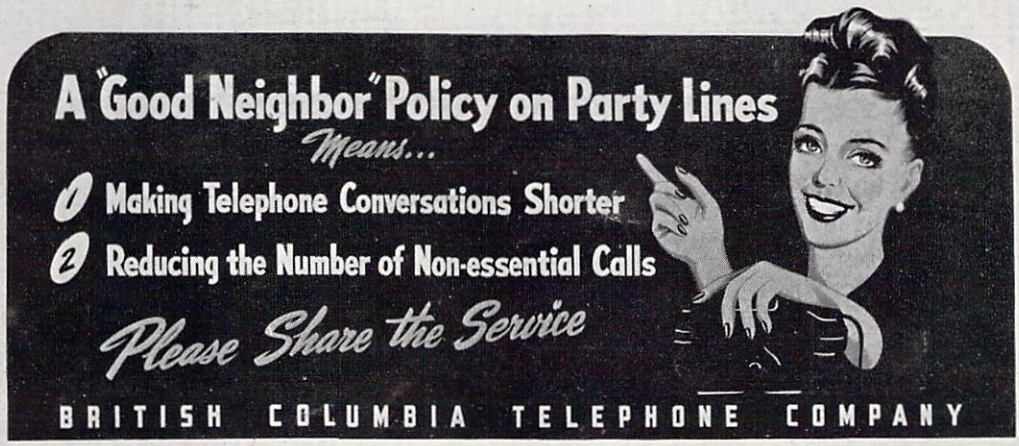




—Upper Photo by Jack Lindsay

Pictured in the upper photo are Miss Margaret Love, Miss Pat Mahood, Miss Nora Parsons, Miss Margaret Guthrie, Miss Iris Steeves, Miss Isobel Smith and Miss Valerie Saunders, preparing to make up Christmas parcels for three European children whom the revenue accounting department has adopted. Each payday members contribute a dime each, the money being forwarded by Miss Guthrie to an agency that cares for the children. In the lower pictures are Michal Packan, Jiri Bajda and Jaroslava Sedlackova, all in Czechoslovakia, who received the parcels and for whom the contributions of the revenue accounting staff provided three months' hospital care.

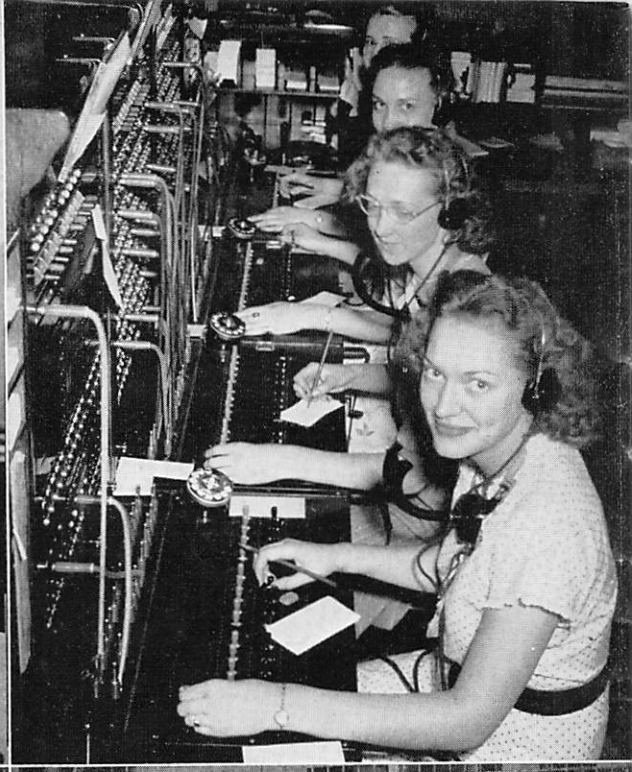



A "Good Neighbor" Policy on Party Lines
Means...
1 Making Telephone Conversations Shorter
2 Reducing the Number of Non-essential Calls
Please Share the Service
BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE COMPANY



These billboards were displayed recently in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster.









On this and ensuing pages are pictures taken this past summer by Roger Kerkham, a photographer who visited some of the Fraser Valley telephone offices. At the upper left is Mrs. Alice Berry, Cloverdale local representative and chief operator. Upper right, is a view of the Cloverdale switchboard with Miss Verna Pasehn, Miss Norah Hodges, Miss Mildred Maine and Miss Muriel Hodges on duty. Lower left, Miss Elizabeth Mason, local representative and chief operator at Ladner, is pictured at her desk. At the lower right are Miss Phyllis Hearl, Miss Frances Hatfield and Miss Doreen Davidson, Ladner operators.









At Hope, Mr. Kerkham took the photograph at the upper left, of Mrs. Alice Johnston, local representative for that office. Upper right is the Mission switchboard with Mrs. Elsie Levesque, local representative and chief operator, at work furthest from the camera, and sister-operators Miss Gladys and Miss Norma Newton. Lower left is the Haney office. The operators on duty are Miss Teresa Fleming, Miss Jean Julleff, Miss Kaye Clent and Mrs. Eileen Lee. At her desk, in the photo at the lower right, is Mrs. M. Deans, local representative for the company at Aldergrove.





At the Abbotsford switchboard, left, are Miss Delores Ross, now of Vancouver Long Distance, and Miss Mona Thompson. The picture at the right was taken at Steveston and shows Miss Louise Winkleman, Miss Marie Maltais, Miss Leona Moore and Miss Marie McNaught at the switchboard.



—Photo courtesy Chilliwack Progress

Here's one girl who believes in Santa Claus! On Christmas Eve, Miss Florence Steele, of the Mission operating staff, was the lucky winner of a brand new 1947 Pontiac sedan in a contest at the Christmas Ball of the Chilliwack Flying Club. She is pictured above at the wheel of her prize car.

1947 Was Record Year Despite Shortages

DESPITE continued shortages of all types of telephone equipment, 1947 was the greatest development year in the history of the B. C. Telephone Company and its associated companies.

The year's progress was marked by:

1. An all-time record gain of 20,276 telephones throughout the system. The highest previous gain was 12,371 in 1946.

2. A record total of 201,102 telephones in service at January 1 this year.

3. An average business day local calling of nearly 1,200,000 conversations—the greatest ever. In 1946, the average was 1,051,000 calls, the previous record.

4. A record long distance total of 5,322,265 calls filed. The previous record was set in 1946, with 4,712,764 calls.

5. The greatest number of employees ever listed on the payrolls—4,000.

In December, 1927, the company installed its 100,000th telephone. In exactly 20 years it had doubled the extent of its operations, the 200,000th telephone being connected in December, 1947. An era of progress had ended and another begun.

The gain of 20,276 telephones throughout the system in 1947 compares with 12,371 telephones gained the previous year. Vancouver alone gained 9,734 instruments for a total of 113,278 at January 1 this year. Victoria's total was boosted 1,991 to 26,944 telephones, and New Westminster added 1,392, for a total of 9,301 instruments in service.

Telephone users in those parts of British Columbia served by the company called more than ever before. Vancouver made more than 800,000 calls per day; Victoria citizens telephoned at the rate of approximately 145,000 conversations a day, and New Westminster telephoned at the rate of more than 40,000 calls per day.

Long distance traffic in 1947 made giant strides, with the above mentioned total of 5,322,265 calls filed throughout the system, compared with a total of 4,712,764 in 1946. Vancouver long distance business alone accounted for 1,721,724 filed calls in 1947, compared with 1,577,922 for the previous year. Victoria toll rang up 531,105 filed calls against 500,517 for 1946, and New Westminster recorded 302,298 toll calls, compared with 269,321 the previous year.

Christmas Day long distance set an all-time record, with 8,633 calls filed, compared with 6,655 calls Christmas Day, 1946.

At January 1 this year employees of the B. C. Telephone Company and its associated companies totalled nearly 4,000, compared with about 3,700 at the same date last year. The peak was reached in June during summer holiday relief when some 4,100 employees were listed on the books.

Demand for telephone service continued at high level, with applications for 19,602 telephones on hand at January 1 this year.



Playing a prominent part in the British Columbia Telephone Company's development programme are these members of the Co-ordination Committee, around the table, left to right: C. W. Halford, assistant general commercial manager; Charles A. Moore, general plant supervisor; James Watson, dial traffic engineer; Stirling Ross, equipment and building engineer; Ralph S. Argue, traffic engineer and chairman of the committee; G. F. Auchinleck, secretary of the committee; R. A. Story, outside plant engineer; E. S. Dickson, district traffic superintendent; G. Karl Haspel, dial engineer, and W. S. Pipes, rate and development engineer. Photo by Jack Lindsay.

Of these, Vancouver accounted for 9,315, Victoria 2,096, and New Westminster 1,361.

Major projects during 1947 included the first cut-over of manual Bayview telephones to Cedar, when nearly 3,800 instruments were converted to automatic; progress on the $1,000,000 William Farrell building, despite material shortages, to a point where some portions of it were earmarked for occupation during the first half of this year, and completion of the Newton central office for cutting in on January 7 this year. Remodelling work was under way, and in most cases completed, on offices at Port Alberni, Kamloops, Abbotsford, Kerrisdale, Princeton and Nanaimo. A considerable amount of switchboard and dial equipment was added in central offices in various parts of the territory and many new long distance circuits placed in service.

Cable placed during 1947 totalled approximately 236,000 feet. Some 2,800 miles of open wire were strung and nearly 5,500 poles set.

Telephone Traveller Turns Author

On page 16 appears an article by Miss Catherine Wilson, Information chief operator, Vancouver, in which she describes a South American tour by herself, Miss Kathleen Stephen, of general traffic, and a friend. This is a condensation of a more detailed article by Miss Wilson. The editor regrets that space limitations prevented its being used in full.

Miss Wilson took numerous excellent pictures on the tour, but, unfortunately from Telephone Talk's standpoint, these are in color and are, therefore, unsuitable for reproduction in this magazine.

Smart Remodelling Job for Port Alberni Office

THE Port Alberni office of the B. C. Telephone Company kept up with fashion trends during 1947, acquiring that "new look" late in October with the completion of extensive remodelling work.

But the Port Alberni building's "look" isn't the only thing new. Behind a smart stucco and brick exterior, featuring larger windows and new entranceway, lies a functional commercial office three times the size of the old one. The operating room has been enlarged and soundproofed and the operators' lounge moved to the rear of the building.

Conveniently located on either side of the main entrance are public telephone booths available 24 hours a day.

Shortly after the remodelling job was completed, switchboard installation men moved in with three additional positions to swell that equipment total to 12 positions. The additional facilities will be capable of ultimate service to some 500 more telephones in the Twin Cities area.



The above picture is a front view of the recently remodelled office of the B. C. Telephone Company at Port Alberni.

The Port Alberni telephone office now serves more than 2,600 instruments, considerably more than the 800 operating in 1935, when the company moved its quarters to the present site on Argyle street after 35 years in the old Fourth avenue building.

Miss Dorothy E. McLeod is local representative. Plant man is J. M. Morrison, and chief operator is Miss Irene Maloney.

Contractors for the remodelling job were Armstrong & Monteith Construction Company Ltd. McCarter & Nairne were the architects.

Auto 'Phone Service Now Available

By B. F. Abram, *Radio Representative*

FOR the past 17 years the North-west Telephone Company, an associate of the B. C. Telephone Company, has provided radiotelephone communication to hundreds of vessels plying the waters of the B. C. coast, and to many logging camps, canneries and isolated communities which, due to their location, would not otherwise have had direct contact with the larger centres.

Radiotelephone developments are now extending into other fields. The latest—mobile radiotelephony for automobiles—is a service designed to help those whose business employs mobile pieces of equipment which are required to keep constant or at least intermittent contact with their places of business.



First to take advantage of the B. C. Telephone Company's mobile radiotelephone service for automobiles was The Vancouver Sun. Shown above is a Sun photographer making a call to his office from a radiotelephone equipped car. The equipment weighs less than 30 pounds, can be installed in the trunk compartment, and consists of receiving and transmitting apparatus, aerial and telephone instrument. Photo by Vancouver Sun.

Three classes of service are offered by the company.

The first is known as "general service", offered on a three-minute toll rate basis for calls to or from a mobile unit in a local service area. The mobile units are identified by numbers which are especially assigned to them.

Anyone may place a call to a mobile unit by merely calling Long Distance at 555 Seymour street, Vancouver, and giving the unit number. The caller is then connected to the radio board and thence to the mobile unit. Conversation is carried on from the mobile unit by the "press to talk" system.

The second type is "dispatch service", based on a one-minute rate between the mobile units and one of several designated numbers.

The third is a completely isolated system not handled through the regular radio board, but designed for use by taxicabs or large trucking companies.

"General service" can be used by business concerns or individuals operating vehicles or other mobile units within metropolitan areas where it is important that headquarters keep in touch with the drivers, or vice versa. By the use of mobile radiotelephones delivery companies can save mileage on back hauls as well as rerouting or changing instructions. Reporters and photographers on newspaper assignments can promptly be dispatched to the scene of important news. Ambulances can also make use of this service as well as auto wrecking companies.

The shortage of suitable low-priced customers' equipment has been the deterring factor in the development of this service, but equipment is becoming more readily available.

The company was one of the first telephone systems in Canada to offer the public the various radiotelephone services outlined above.

Nanaimo Rotary Hears Bert Abram

Radio Representative B. F. Abram, of the executive assistant's department, addressed members of the Nanaimo Rotary Club on November 14 on the subject of Radio Telephony.

Van-Tel Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Van-Tel Credit Union will be held on Thursday, February 19, in the Medical Dental Auditorium.

One of the main items on the agenda for this meeting will be a request for approval of the formation of the Van-Tel Service Society.

Leo Griggs, Nanaimo Plant Head, Retires

A YOUNG man who came to Vancouver in 1911 for a "short visit" after his Seattle grocery business failed, stayed 37 years in B. C., and spent all that time in the telephone business.



Leo Griggs, retired district plant manager, Nanaimo.

The "young man" is Leo Griggs, who retired on January 1 from his position as district plant manager for the B. C. Telephone Company at Nanaimo, a post he had held since 1929.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Leo Griggs gleaned his first technical knowledge from a pile of *Scientific Americans* he found in the attic of the home of his father, a mining engineer. Somewhat inspired by this information, Leo joined a telegraph company in Chicago after leaving school. He was there until a tramp came into the office and told him of the wonders of the far west.

Leo headed for San Francisco, where he found a job with the Western Electric Company, working there and in Los Angeles before deciding to open a grocery business in Seattle. The business was not good, however, and Leo turned north, joining the B. C. Telephone Company in Vancouver in April, 1911.

His first job was as a record clerk in the plant department. This was followed by further grounding in the fundamentals of telephony. Five years after becoming a switchboard man, he was appointed wire chief at Nanaimo. That was in 1920, and in 1925 he was transferred to the equipment engineering department, remaining there until 1927, when he was appointed wire chief at Highland. Two years later he returned to Nanaimo to the position he held when he retired.



Reg Kaltenbach, new district plant manager, Nanaimo.

* * *

Kaltenbach Succeeds Griggs

R. F. (Reg) Kaltenbach, former toll wire chief at Victoria, has been appointed district plant manager at Nanaimo to succeed Leo Griggs, who retired on pension January 1 this year.

Joining the B. C. Telephone Company in January, 1925, Mr. Kaltenbach's first job was in the repair shop at Vancouver. In 1927 he was made an equipment installer, and a year later went to Victoria as a repeaterman.

Mr. Kaltenbach's knowledge of and ability in the telephone business was put to the test during the war when he was appointed toll wire chief at Victoria for the Pacific Communications System, a telephone network which served the Armed Forces.

When hostilities ceased Mr. Kaltenbach continued on at Victoria as toll wire chief for the B. C. Telephone Company.



Hail and Farewell! Stuart Telford, left, new toll wire chief, Victoria, exchanges greetings with his predecessor, Reg Kaltenbach, new district plant manager, Nanaimo. Photo by Fort-Cowx-Macphail.



When Stuart Telford, former member of the Vancouver long distance maintenance staff, was about to leave for Victoria to take up his new duties as toll wire chief there, Vancouver associates presented him with a leather brief case and a leather writing case. William H. Foulkes, toll wire chief, Vancouver made the presentation at a farewell gathering at 555 Seymour street on Christmas Eve. Pictured are, left to right: Front row, Art Pollard, Eric Mason, William Foulkes, Stuart Telford and Harry Lake; second row, George Tyson, Charles Carnes, Claude Parker, Garnet Lee, Charles Clark, Don Weaver and Eddie Edwards; rear row, John Nesbit, Jim Wright, Archie Nock, Frank Reeves, Larry White, Pete Kaayk and Doug LaRoy. Photo by Dominion Photo Co.

Telford New Toll Wire Chief

SUCCEEDING Reg Kaltenbach as toll wire chief, Victoria, is H. Stuart Telford, a veteran of nearly 24 years with the company, and former repeaterman at Vancouver long distance headquarters at 555 Seymour street.

Mr. Telford joined the company in Vancouver as a clerk in the wire chief's office in 1924. He was made an apprentice switchman in 1926, and in 1930 and again in 1933 spent periods in Victoria on central office maintenance. In 1934 he was made PBX repairman at Vancouver, and nine years later went on toll test. He was made repeaterman in 1943.

Attention: Holders of War Savings Certificates

WAR Savings Certificates may be forwarded to the Registrar in Ottawa for redemption at face value each month they fall due. However, by arrangement with the Bank of Canada, all chartered banks will look after this for you at a small cost—a nominal charge for the time, labor and postage saved. Consult your bank for particulars.

Miss Duncan New Welfare Supervisor

MISS MARY S. DUNCAN has succeeded Miss Mary Dickson as welfare supervisor. Miss Dickson retired on pension on September 30, 1947.

The welfare of the girls in the company is the primary interest of the welfare supervisor. She visits sick employees, seeing if they require care or assistance. She also acts as counsellor to girls seeking advice.

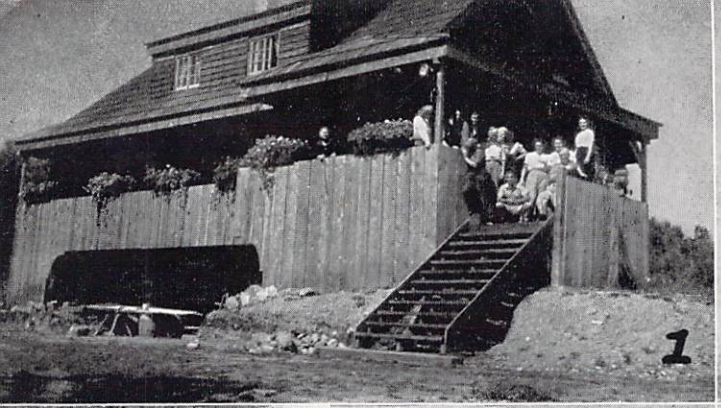
Miss Duncan, who joined the company as an operator at Seymour, was chief operator at Kerrisdale and traffic supervisor before joining the welfare department as Miss Dickson's assistant.



Miss Mary S. Duncan, welfare supervisor. Photo by Krass Studio.

Vaughan Credit Institute Associate

AT the annual meeting of the Canadian Credit Institute Ltd., Aubrey Vaughan, accountant in the supplies division, was made an associate of the institute.













Telephone employees and their holidays. (1) The lodge of Art Abram, former employee, near Lac La Hache. (2) on vacation at Hillpoint Lodge. (4) Miss Mary Logan, Hastings; Miss Marjorie Kerton, Courtenay, and Miss M Garner, of Victoria local staff, in the grounds of the Greek Theatre, University of California. (6) Miss Thelma Sl supervisor, with a friend at Revelstoke. (8) Mrs. Lenore Abrams and Miss Edna McGillivray, both of the Bayvie in front of the San Carlos Mission at Carmel, California. (10) Miss Vera Walker, Bayview operator, at Bowen Isl pictured at Jericho Beach. (12) Miss Thelma Rudolf, Bayview sup

The Pioneer Trail

By KEN COWPER

(This column is devoted to the activities of B. C. Chapter No. 53, Telephone Pioneers of America. News items of interest to Pioneers are requested and should be sent to the secretary-treasurer, Ken Cowper, 555 Seymour street.)

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the following Pioneers who have been granted Life Membership in the chapter: William J. Cummins, James E. Henderson, John A. Cunningham, Miss Mary Dickson, Leo A. Griggs, J. P. Bennett, Miss Elsie Foreman and Harry Wilson.

The following new members are being welcomed to the chapter: Miss Jennie Robertson, A. H. Bowley, Miss Pauline Jamieson, Mrs. Jean M. Nesbitt, Miss Edna W. Olsen, Victor C. Owen, Herbert W. Stevens, Miss E. Constance Young, Harold G. Clifton, Herbert R. Grigg and Francis Royle.

As you already know, our fiscal year has been changed to coincide with the administration year, and we wish to thank you all for your splendid co-operation in this respect.

* * *

Vancouver Pioneers Hold Successful Cabaret

THE Pioneers' cabaret at the Commodore, in Vancouver, on November 27 was most successful, with 424 members and friends attending. Highlight of the evening was a floor-show by Fran Dowie and his troupe.

G. Karl Haspel was convener for the dance, with Ted Saul and Jack Adamson in charge of tickets and entertainment, respectively. Also assisting on the committee were Jack Hemer, Ken Cowper and King Cavalsky.

The success of the party was due, mainly, to the efforts of this group.













Archie Leitch and Jim Pratt, repair shop, at Twin Lakes, Penticton. (3) Miss Margaret Milner, Bayview operator, illie Taylor, Hastings, holidaying at Horse Lake in the Cariboo. (5) Miss Helen Cleator and Miss Gwendaline de and Miss Betty Bruce, of revenue accounting, on vacation at G-Lazy-2 Ranch. (7) Miss Jean Mercer, Bayview operating staff, holidaying in Oakland, California. (9) Miss M. Lorraine LaBelle, of toll maintenance, Vancouver, nd. (11) Miss Betty Palmer, Miss Frances Holmes, Miss Loreine Sonne and Miss Mary Derry, of the Alma staff, rvisor, and Jack Oakie of movie fame at the Banff Springs Hotel.

Fifteen Years Ago

(From TELEPHONE TALK, December, 1932, January, 1933)

JAMES HENDERSON, of the Vancouver installation staff, was elected president of the Vancouver branch of the Electrical Employees' Organization for 1933. W. Topham, of Hammond, was vice-president, and A. L. Creech was chosen as secretary-treasurer for the third successive time.

* * *

Although handicapped by world conditions, the telephone industry managed to finish 1932 with an impressive list of accomplishments to its credit for that year. Telephone service from British Columbia was extended to Egypt, South Africa, Portugal, the Bahama Islands, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia and Siam.

Sales by employees during 1932 totalled 3,134. The grand total since the sales plan was inaugurated in November, 1930, was 5,815.

* * *

Lloyd Purdy's B. C. Telephone men's basketball team was continuing its winning ways in the Greater Vancouver Senior "B" League. To date the telephone hoopsters had turned in eight consecutive victories.

* * *

E. K. Saul, with a score of 820, was high man in the turkey shoot held by the B. C. Telephone Men's Bowling Club on December 13. Others who won turkeys were R. Mitchell, A. Marsden, H. Kirk and J. Kasmer.

* * *

The third annual dance of the B. C. Telephone Company Electrical Employees' Organization was to be held at the Alma Academy, Vancouver, on St. Valentine's Day.

Three Blind Mice in South America

By Catherine Wilson, Information Chief Operator, Vancouver

THE three blind mice, in this instance, were two-legged ones, Kathleen Stephen, of general traffic department; Margaret Brooks, a friend, and myself. We had recklessly invested in a one-way ticket to Callao, the port of Lima in Peru, with no idea how we would reach home, as it was not possible to purchase a return ticket. We had a thousand plans and a compelling desire to go down the west coast of South America, cross the Andes, and come up the east coast. So, with high hopes, on a sunny day in March, we set sail aboard the Grace line freighter S.S. *Santa Adela.*

Our first call was Bellingham, the second, San Francisco. Continuing on our southbound journey to South America, we reached our first foreign port of Manzanillo, Mexico, one morning in the warm, sticky grey dawn. This small seaport town is built on a series of hills surrounding a bay. The majority of the homes were nipa huts sitting precariously on the hillside looking as though a puff of wind would blow them away.

Shore Officials Spick-and-Span

It was fun to watch the shore officials come out, spick and span in their uniforms, with big American revolvers hanging from holsters, giving them a very authoritative look. Next the doctor's launch appeared with its yellow flag blowing in the breeze. Our officers were all decked out in their uniforms, with gold braid a-glitter. The Mexicans love show, so the ship's personnel made it look good. After we had all passed the doctor, the yellow flag was taken down to show we were a healthy lot, and immediately dozens of longshoremen set out from the shore in loaded launches. What a cut-throat looking crew! We were interested observers as their launches drew up alongside, and as soon as we were spied the wolf calls started to ring forth, and we discovered whether it be the Northern or the Southern Americans you visit, they have a common language.

Later, setting foot on our first foreign soil, we taxied out to a beautiful seaside resort, Santiago, where we went swimming in the warm and treacherous surf, while huge pelicans dived all around us, landing in the water with a clumsy plop, always successful in getting their fish.

Dinner Was Goat Steak

On our moonlit ride back to our ship our escorts were very anxious to know how we had enjoyed our steak dinner, and, with great glee, informed us we had eaten GOAT steak.

One brilliant morning a few days later we dropped anchor a mile from San Jose, Guatemala, and looked across at the flat palm-lined shore. Red corrugated iron roofs showed up against the skyline and huge breakers piled high on the sandy beach. Three volcanic mountains, located just back of the town, erupted in 1917, levelling the surrounding countryside to the ground.

The process of getting ashore at this point was quite an experience. The ship's gangway was lowered, and we got into an open boat manned by six natives. We were rowed a half-mile toward shore, and then a launch came out to give us a tow. Coming in alongside a dock built on 30-foot piles, a huge crane lowered an armchair supported by ropes into our boat. To our way of thinking, the contraption did not seem any too safe. However, somebody sits in the chair; in my case it was the radio operator, a chap who weighed at least 200 pounds. I then sat on his knee, someone gave me a case of Coke to hold, and my companion, a small suitcase; then three more men climbed on board by standing on the rungs of the chair and hanging on to the supporting ropes. Not waiting to see if everyone was ready and likely to hang on until the top was reached, we were rapidly jerked into the air and swung up to the floor of the shed. Quite thrilling and, to me, hair-raising. This mode of conveyance is used because it is impossible to land a boat on the shore on account of the huge rollers which at times reach a height of 50 feet.



Back from their travels, Miss Kathleen Stephen, general traffic, and Miss Catherine Wilson, Information chief operator, reminisce about their visit to South America. Photo by Dominion Photo Co.

Life aboard ship went on merrily, and we practically lived out on deck, with warm breezes blowing and big, fat turtles appearing alongside in quite large numbers. Ever since leaving San Francisco we had slept out on deck, three cots in a row. Although the heat in our cabin was oppressive, out on deck there was always a cool breeze.

While anchored off Puna, Ecuador, Aileen and Jack Hendry came aboard. Aileen, before her marriage, was the former Aileen Swarbrick, stenographer in the school. She had not changed in the slightest since I saw her last, a short time before she left Vancouver, and it amazed me to see she had no trace of the tropical sun, although we were brown as berries. We were very disappointed because time would not permit us to go 35 miles up the Guayas River to Guayaquil, her home, but

we spent a lovely day aboard their luxurious launch talking "shop" and enjoying interesting colored slides taken by Jack of Guayaquil.

We sailed along the Peruvian coast, rugged and barren, not a touch of green to relieve the drabness of the sand dunes which stretch for miles along the shore, and came to anchor off Talara. On shore I used the telephone to get in touch with friends. The Peruvian "Hello" girl asked, "What?" in a surprised tone when I used my very poor Spanish, and then, "What number you want?" After a further struggle and a few "OK's" (the latter expression seems to be a universal one), I finally had to get an American flyer to come to my rescue, but received the proverbial wrong number. I was delighted, however, to hear a pleasant voice answer in English, and spent several minutes chatting. Later, I contacted Mr. and Mrs. William Pye, former Vancouverites, and we spent a most interesting day with them at Negritis, a short distance from Talara.

From our next port of call, Saliverry, we took a 20-mile bus ride to the beautiful little city of Trujillo, where we had decided to stay for our three days in port.

Saw Pre-Inca Relics

During our stay there, we drove to Chiklin and visited a museum which housed an excellent collection of pre-Inca relics. Here we saw rings made out of human bone, mummies still covered with colorful hand-woven shawls, beautiful rugs made out of brilliant bird feathers, remains of 1000-year-old natives found in recent excavations, with long hair and teeth looking as though they belonged to living people. We were fascinated by two shrunken heads, one human, the other a monkey, and the two so alike it was difficult to tell them apart.

On the thirty-fourth day of our trip Callao, our last port, was sighted, and with regret we packed our bags and bid a fond farewell to the *Santa Adela* and her personnel. On our own for the first time, and with many misgivings, we found ourserves headed for Lima in a taxi. We had been warned never to get into a taxi before inquiring the fare. In our excitement we had forgotten, and on arrival at our very modern apartment hotel we were asked to cough up the equivalent of $10. By dint of a great deal of argument we finally settled for $5.50, and later rode over the same ground many times for 80 cents.

We were invited to take in one of Lima's main Sunday attractions, a bull fight. Cushions were being rented inside the huge, many-tiered, concrete stadium. I wondered why, until I discovered this huge bull ring seats, on cold cement, 10,000 people. The crowd were all keyed up, and the reason, a negro toreador who had fought three previous fights and come off second best in his bout with the bull, was again going into the ring.

Bull Fights Gory Affairs

The fights were decidedly gory affairs lasting on an average 20 minutes. We saw six $2000 bulls literally "hit the dust". They never let a fighting bull go into the ring a second time, even if he has managed to survive the slaughter, as he learns by the end of the fight not to go for the cape, but for the man.

We spent a week in the capital of Peru, and found it a very lovely city, with well-kept plazas and fine statues, Spanish-style balconies giving an old world charm, and many new buildings, which are fine and built to resist earthquakes. The street car situation, however, is grim. During peak hours we watched fascinated while orderly line-ups stretching one and a half blocks in either direction filed without any pushing or shoving, one line taking the back car and the other the front of double-headers.

Time was flying. We were still in Peru with so much to see and do in this fascinating Latin country, with its friendly, happy people. We rode on the world's highest standard gauge railway, chugging along through the Andes to a height of 14,000 feet, travelling to Huancayo in time to see their famous Sunday market. Colorful stalls, with the greatest variety of goods, were stretched for blocks along the main street which had been closed to all traffic for the day. The Indians living in this rarified atmosphere were a hardy type.

Spent Week in Santiago

An eight-hour flight down the coast of Chili landed us in Santiago, the capital, where we spent a week. Before entraining for Buenos Aires, Argentina, we had a reunion with our seafaring pals of the *Santa Adela*, homeward bound.

The trip over the Andes was made in a small, narrow train that puffed along among the snow-clad peaks.

Buenos Aires, the style centre of South America, was a shopper's paradise. Florida, the main shopping street with beautiful displays, was closed each day to all traffic from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while window shopping throngs swarmed the street. Although everything else was exceptionally high compared with the West Coast, such things as lingerie, leather goods and clothes were reasonable. We were intrigued with Argentina's eating habits and its night life. You could order breakfast at 8 a.m. and have lunch at noon, but to get dinner before 8.30 or 9 p.m. was a physical impossibility. Afternoon tea was served at 5, and delicious as they were, we got heartily tired of dainty sandwiches and fancy cakes when we wanted to get our teeth into something more substantial. Their night clubs provide wonderful entertainment. There are always two orchestras, one playing modern American music and the other South American, samba, rhumba, tango and so on. They have two complete floor shows with outstanding performers. Prices are high, and should you wish a glass of orange juice the charge would be $2.50 in our money.

Visited Brazilian Beauty Spots

We were excited as our plane circled over Rio de Janeiro and a stretch of land-locked harbor sparkled below us. We saw an aquamarine sea studded with tiny palm-fringed islands etched with white sand. During our week's stay in the capital city of Brazil we visited many of the famous beauty spots we had read and heard about. Sugar Loaf, the highest peak of a low chain of mountains, rises 1,300 feet out of the sea, and we thoroughly enjoyed the two cable car rides which took us to the top.

(Continued on Page 19)

Ads Advise Fewer Calls, Shorter Calls

RECENT advertising of the British Columbia Telephone Company has centred on an appeal to party-line users to be "Good Telephone Neighbors" by making fewer calls and shorter calls. This has been the theme of billboard posters (see page 5), street car cards and publication advertising in daily and weekly newspapers.

It is pointed out in these advertisements that party-line users can help themselves to better service by being willing to "Share the Service".

Admitting that telephone service hasn't been up to standard recently, one of our daily newspaper ads says:

"That doesn't mean that we're not doing our best to serve you. As a matter of fact, despite shortages of so many things needed in a telephone system, we are serving more people than ever before. Our effort to give service to as many people as possible, with the limited facilities available, is the major cause of service deterioration. Our exchanges are carrying too big a load of telephone calls.

"Naturally there are now more party-line telephones than ever before. However, party-line telephone users can help to relieve the present situation by adopting a 'Good Neighbor' policy toward those with whom they share the line—that is, by

"1. Making their telephone conversations shorter, and

"2. Reducing the number of non-essential calls."

Samples of two of our recent advertisements which appeared in nine British Columbia daily newspapers, in space of 4 columns by 12 inches each, appear on this and the next page. The telephone operators whose pictures adorn these ads are members of our own operating staff. In the ad entitled "A Good Neighbor Policy on Party Lines Will Bring Better 'Phone Service" is a picture of Miss Berna Franklin, Victoria operator, while appearing in the ad "How to Help Yourself to Better Service", is a portrait of Miss Shirley Halls, of the Long Distance staff, Vancouver.


A "Good Neighbor" Policy on Party Lines Will Bring Better 'Phone Service
There are now more party-line telephones than ever before and our telephone exchanges are carrying too big a load of telephone calls. The problem is that we are trying to give service to as many people as possible with the limited facilities available. As a result, the standard of service has deteriorated.
Party-line telephone users can help to relieve the present trying situation by adopting a "good neighbor" policy toward those with whom they share the line—that is, by
(1) Making their telephone conversations shorter, and
(2) Reducing the number of non-essential calls.
"Please Share the Service"
BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE COMPANY

The above advertisement has appeared in space of four columns by 12 inches in nine daily newspapers in various parts of the territory served by our system.

During the transportation strike last fall, in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, newspaper and radio advertising was used to request the public to use the telephone as little as possible during the emergency.

The public responded so well to this request that at the conclusion of the strike, advertising space was taken to express the company's thanks in the following message:

"At the beginning of the transportation strike the Telephone Company appealed to the public to use the telephone

service as sparingly as possible. It was pointed out that switchboards and dial equipment were already overloaded due to efforts to serve as many people as possible despite equipment shortages. It was also pointed out that telephone exchanges might be short of staff due to delays in transporting employees to work. Too many calls, the public was reminded, could jam the telephone system, and vital calls such as those for doctors, hospitals, the police, and fire department, might be held up.

"The public co-operated admirably—so well, in fact, that no city-wide telephone crisis developed during the transportation tie-up.

"For this support and co-operation the Telephone Company wishes to express its sincere appreciation."


How to Help Yourself to Better Service
Yes, we know that telephone service isn't up to standard these days. That doesn't mean that we're not doing our best to serve you. As a matter of fact, despite shortages of so many things needed in a telephone system, we are serving more people than ever before. Our effort to give service to as many people as possible with the limited facilities available is the major cause of service deterioration. Our exchanges are carrying too big a load of telephone calls.
Naturally, there are now more party-line telephones than ever before. However, party-line telephone users can help to relieve the present situation by adopting a "good neighbor" policy toward those with whom they share the line - - that is, by
1. Making their telephone conversations shorter, and
2. Reducing the number of non-essential calls.
"Please Share the Service"
BRITISH COLUMBIA TELEPHONE COMPANY

Another advertisement in the "fewer calls, shorter calls" series, which has appeared in nine daily newspapers in space of four columns by 12 inches.

Three Blind Mice in South America

(Continued from Page 17)

Another week had passed as though in a flash, and it was time to leave Rio. We boarded a Pan-American launch to take the hour trip across the bay to the island where our DC 4 Clipper, "The Charmer", awaited us. At the airfield our plane taxied down the runway, and in a few moments we were looking down on Sugar Loaf and Corcovado, with the giant figure of Christ standing out against the blue of the sky, our last glimpse of the most beautiful harbor in the world.

A short time later the "Fasten your seat belt" sign lit up. Rain beat on the windows and the plane started to make sickening drops. We had run into a tropical storm. I spent an uncomfortable half hour while "The Charmer" seemed to delight in doing a series of lurching gymnastics.

In quick succession we landed in Cayenne, French Guiana; Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, and Georgetown, British Guiana, our last stop before Port of Spain, Trinidad.

At Port of Spain we broke our trip and stayed two days at the Queen's Park Hotel. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Trinidad. Everything was very dry, as rain had not fallen for five months. The grass looked parched, but the foliage was green and the flowers bloomed in profusion.

En route to New York we had a short stopover in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and were amused at the health authorities lining us up in the waiting room and sticking thermometers in our mouths. After a careful routine inspection of 52 temperature readings we were all served bacardi cocktails handed around by a white uniformed negro. I couldn't quite get the connection, but enjoyed it nevertheless.

New York, a sea of twinkling lights in the early morning hours, stretched for miles below us. We spent a very enjoyable week taking in theatres, Coney Island, the Bowery, Chinatown, and the usual tourist attractions, before taking a train to Montreal.

Enthusiasm knew no bounds as we approached our own Canadian Rockies. Three very subdued travellers watched as familiar glimpses of landscape appeared, and the trainman called "Vancouver". We realized a very successful and happy holiday had ended.

I went to claim my luggage at the Canadian National and found customs officials frantically stuffing miscellaneous articles of wearing apparel back into battered and worn cases from which they had escaped. As heavy twine was cheerfully donated to tie around my handleless, gaping baggage I grudgingly admitted it was time I was home, and I recalled our cabin boy's words of philosophy—"It is good to have money and the things money can buy, but it is good, too, to think back once in a while to make sure you haven't lost the things money can't buy."

Hasta la vista, South America.



W. J. (Bill) Cummins, recently retired Duncan plant employee, pictured with the lamp and smoking stand presented to him by his fellow workers.

Bill Cummins Retires

AILING telephone apparatus in the Duncan area is going to miss the careful attentions of W. J. (Bill) Cummins, who retired on pension July 31 after a more-than-40-year telephone career, 32 of which he spent with the B. C. Telephone Company.

Mr. Cummins' lengthy association with the telephone business began shortly after the turn of the century in Seattle. He later moved to Victoria, worked for the B. C. Electric for a while, then joined the B. C. Telephone Company in 1907 as groundman.

When the telephone business in B. C. hit a slack period, he moved back to Seattle. Then the war interrupted his plans and Mr. Cummins joined the Air Force, serving until 1919, when he rejoined the B. C. Telephone Company. He served at Duncan for a time, moved to Cobble Hill, and then went back to Duncan, where he remained until his retirement. During his long career, he worked as lineman, head gangman, district repairman and combination man.

On his retirement, telephone plant and operating staff at Duncan presented him with a lamp and smoking stand.

Vancouver Smoker Scores

ALL the ingredients of a top-grade stag party —a congenial crowd, an abundance of refreshments and a sparkling entertainment programme of stage and athletic events—combined to make the plant men's smoker on November 28 a rousing success. The affair was put on by Local 1, plant division, Federation of Telephone Workers of B. C., and the Seamen's Club was the scene of the event. Bob Lindsay was chairman of the committee in charge, other members of which were: Burpee McLennan, president of Local 1; Bob Laughland, Lawrence Leiper, Colin Cole, John Shand, Dave Gordon and Bob Bell.

Master of ceremonies for the stage show was Cummy Reid. Wrestling and boxing displays rounded out a well-balanced evening.

Record Community Chest Subscription

IT is evident that the telephone family in the Greater Vancouver area recognized the Community Chest and its Red Feather agencies as a community enterprise worthy of its full support. Employees in Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver, through the Employees' Voluntary Committee, subscribed a total of $7,628.10 during last fall's Community Chest campaign. This is more than $1,000 in excess of the previous year's subscription, and is the largest amount ever collected from employees for this purpose.

Additional personal subscriptions by executive officers amounted to $2,090, which, with the company's subscription of $8,000, made a grand total of $17,718.10.

Figures released by C. W. Mellish, who acted as chairman of the canvassing committee, showed that out of 2,420 employees in the area, 2,022, or 85 per cent, subscribed.

In addition to Mr. Mellish, the following served on the Voluntary Committee: Miss M. Thomson, Miss B. E. Marlor, B. F. Abram, W. G. Lindsay, W. S. Thomas, W. D. Stevens, J. Evans, Miss F. Pearce, M. G. Butler, O. E. Snead and T. E. Brett.

Assisting Miss Pearce with the traffic department campaign were Miss P. Schell, Bayview; Miss E. Mair and Miss C. Trotter, Fairmont; Miss D. Stow, Hastings; Miss M. Sproat, Kerrisdale; Miss Frances Dorrell, D.S."A"; Miss P. Auton, Toll; Miss B. Drinkwater, Observation; Mrs. M. Dresher, Alma; Miss J. Fitzpatrick, Dexter; Miss E. Anderson, Glenburn; Miss K. Morris, Langara; Miss S. Olson, North; Miss A. Brooks, West; Miss W. Woodward, Information; Miss J. Woodworth, School; Miss M. Pound, P.B.X.; and S. R. Hartney, general traffic.

In Our Sports World

Ken McKay Wins Golf Club Championship

FOR the third successive year Ken McKay has captured the championship of the B. C. Telephone Company Golf Club, Vancouver, and retains the Hamilton Trophy for another year. Tom Halford was runner-up.

The Rickards Trophy for special handicap went to Jack Morrow, with Alan Irvine in runner-up position. The Munro Cup was won by Tom Halford, with Bob Robb and Ralph Spicer tied for second place. Joe Peacock copped the Carlile Trophy for high handicap, and Jim Madden was second. Winner of the Fraser eclectic tournament was Jock Clark, with Tom Halford second.

* * *

Bowling Club Ends First Half

THE first half of the 1947-1948 season of the B. C. Telephone Mixed Bowling League was rounded out with a turkey shoot at Chapman Bowling Alleys, followed by a party at the White Rose Ballroom.

Individual standings at the end of the first half were as follows:

Ladies' High Average—Rita Lawrence, 186; Mary Decker and Marg Sparrow, 183.

Ladies' High Single Game — Marg McLean, 315; Kay Ellick, 311, and Marg Sparrow, 303.

Ladies' High Three Games—Marg Sparrow, 809; Marg McLean, 680, and Mary Clark, 679.

Men's High Average—Fred Perkins, 212; Les Foulkes, 205, and Jim Pratt, 199.

Men's High Single Game—Jim Pratt, 340; Wes Cliff, 327, and Jim Ross, 307.

Men's High Three Games—Fred Perkins, 766; Ian Hurst, 759, and Jim Henderson, 756.

In top place for the first half of the season were the Takeouts, with 27 games won. Runners-up were the Cables, Signals and Cords, winners of 24, 23 and 21 games, respectively.

Jim Pratt heads the mixed bowling club's executive for the present season. Les Foulkes and Al Sill serve as vice-president and secretary, respectively, and Lenora Abrams, Rhoda Allen, Ted Lawrence and Jim Ross make up the executive. Rita Lawrence looks after the recording of scores and averages.



In the top photo are head table guests at the smoker recently held by Local 2, Federation of Telephone Workers of B. C., in Victoria. From left to right are Colin Cole, Vancouver; Charles Peck, president of Local 230, I. B. E. W.; Bert Rowbottom, Nanaimo; Frank Pomeroy, Dave Gordon, Vancouver; Alex McCormick, S. Semple and William Denholm, Nanaimo. The lower photo shows a general view of the gathering. Photo by Joncas Studio.

Vancouver and the Mainland



Mr. and Mrs. R. Carswell and Mr. and Mrs. J. Emanuele are pictured cutting the wedding cakes at their double wedding. The brides, formerly Miss Lorraine and Miss Dorothy Copeland, were sister-operators at Hastings. Photo by Allan B. Evers.

Hastings

MISS KATHLEEN HART was guest of honor at a miscellaneous shower at the home of Mrs. Hilda Loban, and was recipient of many lovely gifts. As a wedding gift from the staff she was presented with a coffee table.

Miss Alice Jaeger, whose marriage to Charles Connor of Portland, Oregon, took place in December, was honored at a miscellaneous shower at the home of Miss Helen Johnston. The gift from the staff was a damask tablecloth and serviettes to match.

Miss Betty Thomson and Miss Marion White have resigned to be married.

Miss Geraldine McKean and Miss Norah Spooner have resigned.

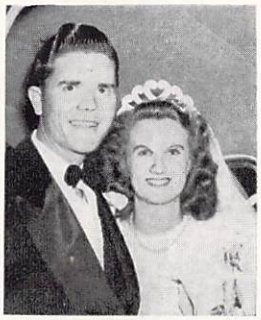
The Hastings staff again remembered The Old People's Home with individually wrapped gifts of candy and tobacco. Twenty-five dollars was also sent from our Sunshine Raffle to the Shaughnessy Happiness Fund of Radio Station CKMO.

The Hastings girls received gifts of cigarettes and apples from subscribers.

* * *

Revenue Accounting

Miss Kay Rogish, who resigned on November 28 prior to her marriage, was guest of honor at a miscellaneous shower at Miss Norma Craig's home.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Olsen. Mrs. Olsen was formerly Miss Randi Haakensen of the Hastings operating staff. Photo by Allan B. Evers.

At a department presentation, B. G. Jardine, revenue accountant, presented a gift of stemware to Miss Rogish.

On December 20, Miss Rogish became the bride of Anthony Crncich, Jr., at a ceremony in Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

Daughter of Norman Adkins, of the repair shop, and Mrs. Adkins, Miss Norma Adkins was married on December 20 to James R. Insley. She was attended by her sister, Barbara, and by Miss Lorna Murphy and Miss Beverley McInnes.

Before leaving the department, Miss Adkins received a blanket from her co-workers, Mr. Jardine making the presentation.

* * *

Bayview

Members of the Bayview operating staff who recently resigned to be married include Miss Pearl Edwards, Miss Roberta Brooks, Miss Alta McCon-



Pictured above at the luncheon-shower in honor of Miss Leone Skinner, Vancouver commercial bride-elect are: Seated—Miss Mary Parrish, Miss Frances McLean, Miss Vivian Plumsteal, Miss Skinner, Miss Doris Elford, Miss Myrtle Davies, and Miss Kay McFerran; standing—Miss Rae Rollins, Mrs. Lorraine Alton, Miss Katherine Rae, Miss Shirley Oliver, Miss Bessie Barclay, Miss Shirley Selman, Miss Ida Beck, Mrs. Doris Lawson, Miss Mavis Bartholomew, Miss Diana Marler, Miss Fannie Westwood, Mrs. Enid Anderson, Mrs. Kay MacDonald, Miss Chris MacKay, Miss Marge Adams, Mrs. Sunshine Dow, Miss Viola Toll, Miss Marion Crellin, Miss Ivy Martin and Mrs. Anne Dungey. Photo by Jack Lindsay.

nell, Miss Jacqueline McMannis, Miss Jean Schofield and Mrs. Brooksbank.

Miss Jean Dempsey, Miss Jeannette Asquin, Miss Hannah McCowan, Miss Margaret McBay, Miss Ruth Gardner, Mrs. Joy Kelly and Mrs. Weeks have resigned because of ill health. Resignations have also been received from Miss Violet Passmore, Miss Estella Knight and Miss M. Baker.

Miss Shirley King resigned to return to Saskatoon and Miss K. Beaton to return to her native Scotland.

Miss Kay Schell was transferred to Kerrisdale as exchange clerk. From her many friends at Bayview she received a pen and pencil set and an umbrella.

Miss May Johnson has been transferred to Dial Service.

Following the cut-over to Cedar the following were transferred from Bayview: Miss Ethel Raper, Miss Margaret Stansfield and Mrs. Holmes to Alma; Miss Beverley Smith and Miss M. Larson to Kerrisdale; Miss Patricia Kerr to Dexter, and Miss Marie Edie, Miss Eileen Wray and Mrs. Laudan to Langara.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Miss Jessie Faulkner and Mrs. Margaret Fraser in their recent bereavement.

* * *

Vancouver Long Distance

Miss Marion Gracey, who was married on November 25, was presented with an eiderdown comforter at a shower held in her honor at the home of Mrs. Irene Bigger.

Miss Patricia Hughes has resigned to return to her home in Saskatoon.

Miss Barbara Bell, Miss Joan Kelly and Miss Marietta Pantages have also resigned.

Mr. Vance, traffic manager at Regina, was a recent visitor to the office.

* * *



Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Martin, of Montreal. The bride was formerly Miss Eileen Bozman, of Glenburn operating staff.

Fairmont

Eight Fairmont operators were transferred during the month of November: Miss Mary Preston, Miss June Preston, Miss Ethel Rowbottom, Miss Audrey Squires, Miss Frances Schollen and Miss Margaret Shiells to Dexter; Miss Edith Jones to Hastings, and Mrs. Catherine McDonald to Dial Service.

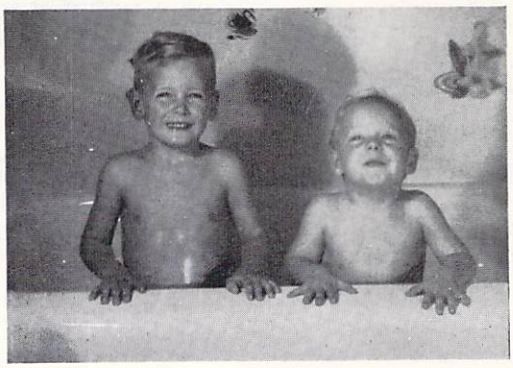


Top picture shows Miss Grace Smith, second from right, retired Trinity chief operator, with Mrs. W. Doggett, of the school staff, and Miss Joan Gray and Miss M. D. Rushbury, both of general traffic, who visited with Miss Smith at San Jose, California, where she now resides. In the lower photo, dining at an Italian and French restaurant in San Francisco are Miss C. McIntosh, general traffic; Mrs. Jean McIntosh, of San Francisco; Miss M. D. Rushbury and Miss Joan Gray, general traffic, and Mrs. W. Doggett, school.

Miss Mary McGillivary has left owing to ill health, and Miss Winnifred Goss has resigned to be married.

Resignations have been received from Misses Dorothy Richards, Irma Keintz, Dorianne Kowble, Rowena Galloway, Doreen Schick, Patricia Lane and Mrs. Margaret Hunter.

Miss Mary McKenzie, a December bride-elect, has also resigned. The staff presented to her a chest of Community flatware in Lady Hamilton design as a wedding present.



Enjoying their bath in the above photo are Larry and Douglas, three and two years old, respectively, sons of Mrs. Ken Stenberg, of Seattle, formerly Miss Annice Ramsden, Bayview operator.



Here is Jim Smyth, Hammond-Haney plant man, with his three attractive children. Rodney at the left is 11, Marilyn on her dad's knee is three, and David on the right is seven. Photo by Roger Kerkham.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gamon are the proud parents of a baby daughter, Anita Janette, born October 20. Mrs. Gamon was formerly Miss Kay Tulloch, Fairmont supervisor.

Fairmont girls entertained at a miscellaneous shower to assist Mrs. Leola Milsted, who lost most of her possessions when her home burned down recently. During the evening Mrs. Milsted was presented with a sum of money from her co-workers.

An informal Christmas party was held in the Fairmont lounge on December 22. Operators spent a pleasant evening singing Christmas carols, and later partook of refreshments in the cafeteria.

* * *

New Westminster

Miss Grace Elliott, Miss Bernice Gill, Miss Rosalea Ford and Miss Shirley Welsh resigned in October to be married. Miss Bernice Gill, Miss Bernice Smith and Miss Hazel Peterson left in November to be married. To each bride the New Westminster staff presented a case of flatware.

Miss Diana Longcake has resigned.

Gifts of flowers and candy were received by the staff from subscribers at Christmas.

* * *

Dial Service

Miss Valerie Gildemeester and Miss Elizabeth Moffat have resigned and have left Vancouver to live in San Francisco.

Miss Lillian Hill is now living in New York.

Miss Eileen Olson, who was married in September, received a silver service as a wedding gift from the Dial Service staff.

Miss Melba Wainwright has taken a leave of absence to visit England.

Miss Leona Fowler has resigned.

Miss Jean Dobbie has returned to duty after a lengthy illness.

* * *

Kamloops

Walter Woodhouse, of the Kamloops plant staff, is receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter on November 29 at Royal Inland Hospital. Mrs. Woodhouse is the former Kathleen Lindsay.

Kerrisdale

Miss Mary Sproat, exchange clerk, who has been transferred to the assignment bureau of the general traffic department, was presented with a sterling silver dresser set from the staff at Kerrisdale.

* * *

Vancouver Commercial

Miss Leone Skinner, of the work order division of the Vancouver commercial department, was married on November 7 to Donnell E. Kimberley.

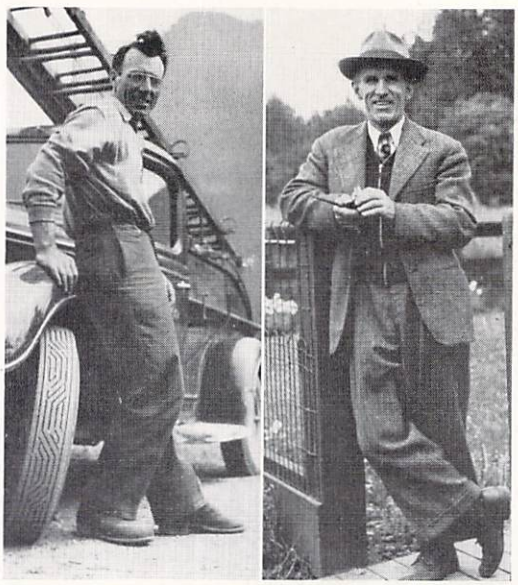
Before leaving the company, Miss Skinner was guest of honor at a luncheon and miscellaneous shower arranged by fellow employees. She also received a pair of boudoir lamps as a wedding gift from her co-workers.

Dance Nets $150 for Solarium

Telephone Company employees in Vancouver held another successful dance at the Commodore Cabaret on October 24. Nine hundred and fifty telephone workers and their friends attended, and from the proceeds a cheque for over $150 was forwarded to the Queen Alexandra Solarium.

Miss Mary Macaulay of Long Distance convened and her committee consisted of Miss B. Gordon, Alma; Miss W. Best, Bayview; Miss B. Fitz-Clarke, Kerrisdale; Miss L. Twining, Langara; Miss I. McKenzie, Fairmont; Miss K. Muzechen, Hastings; Miss D. LaLonde, Dexter; Miss B. Cooper, Glenburn; Miss B. McArthur, D.S."A"; Mrs. K. Gosse, revenue accounting; E. Wintemute, plant; R. Gillespie, traffic; W. Impett, commercial; L. Foulkes, supplies, and G. Kelly, traffic.

Plans are now under way for another dance to be held at the Commodore on April 2.



While up the Fraser Valley, Photographer Roger Kerkham got this picture of Howard Rowse, Hope plant man, at the left, just about to go out on a job. At Port Coquitlam, he took the photo at the right of George Proctor, of New Westminster, who does central office maintenance in the Valley offices.

Vancouver Island



Miss Thelma Gaetz, a Victoria bride-elect, opens her gifts at a shower given in her honor by the Victoria staff. Photo by Duncan Macphail.

Victoria Traffic

MISS JUNITA LINDSTROM, who resigned recently to be married, received a case of flatware in the "Adoration" pattern, with the best wishes of the traffic department.

Mrs. M. Davies, *nee* Kathleen Blakemore, a former member of the Victoria staff, is receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, John Morley.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. J. Pottage, *nee* Junita Lindstrom, on the sudden death of her mother.

Members of the traffic and commercial departments were hostesses in the lounge at a shower in honor of Miss Thelma Gaetz, a popular bride-elect. She was recipient of many lovely gifts which were presented in a trunk decorated in the colors of McGill University, where her prospective bridegroom, John Harper, is studying engineering.

On behalf of her co-workers, Miss E. R. Walker, district traffic chief, presented to Miss Gaetz a case of Kingsplate silverware, "Inspiration" pattern, extending congratulations and best wishes for her future happiness.

Over 50 guests, including some former employees, attended. On the committee in charge of arrangements were Misses Rosa Kaltenbach, Vera Wood, Nora Nash, Athalie Little and Joan Miller.

* * *

Victoria Commercial

Miss Marjorie Cook, a November bride-elect, was honored at a shower at the home of Miss Vera Wood. Miss Frances Franklin presented a gardenia and violet corsage and a silver deposit fruit bowl to Miss Cook with the best wishes of those present. Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Duncan, mothers of the principals, received carnation corsages.

As a wedding gift from her co-workers in the commercial department, Miss Cook was presented with a matching hat box and overnight case.

Her marriage to Flt. Lieut. James Duncan was solemnized on November 1. Following a reception, the couple left for Seattle *en route* to Ottawa, where they will make their home.

* * *

Port Alberni

Members of the Port Alberni staff were hostesses at the home of Miss I. Maloney on December 17 when they entertained at a miscellaneous shower in honor of their chief operator, Miss Mary Coulthard.

The gifts were placed under a lighted miniature Christmas tree and, after they were unwrapped, Miss Maloney presented a case of Rogers silverware to Miss Coulthard with the best wishes of the members of all departments.

About 50 guests were present, including all ex-members of the staff who had worked with Miss Coulthard.

The wedding of Miss Mary Coulthard and Ronald H. Welch took place at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Nanaimo, on December 20. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beynon of Alberni attended the couple.

A reception at the Plaza Hotel followed the ceremony. The bride's table was centred with a three-tier wedding cake, made by T. Roberts, chef of Camp 9, Great Central.

Mr. and Mrs. Welch left for a honeymoon trip to Harrison Hot Springs, and on their return will reside in Port Alberni.

* * *

Parksville

Miss Lillian Wood, member of the Parksville traffic staff and a December bride-elect, was honor guest at a tea on December 22. On behalf of the traffic and plant departments, Frank Morgan presented



Members of Courtenay's plant staff: John Grieve, John Hough (foreman in charge of Courtenay area), Paul Carlson (gang foreman), Jeff Henderson, Bill Watson and Ed Bolderson.



Pictured in the lounge of the Victoria office are members of the staff who attended the shower for Miss Thelma Gaetz. From left to right they are, front row: Misses Margaret Dickson, Margaret Wood, Frances Patterson, Vera Wood and Margaret Harness; seated, Misses Dorothy Scott, Lillian Benson, Ivy Bradley, Thelma Gaetz, Jean Miller, Bernice Franklin, Emily Warburton, Athalie Little, Kathleen Davies and Elsa Hollyhead; standing, Misses Ella R. Walker, Edith Parsell, Maud Tait, Doreen Cruse, Mary Lloyd, Lorraine Hall, Rosa Kaltenbach, Edith Pepper, Euphenia Nicholson, Vera Weeks, Jessie Muirhead, Frances West, Betty Brown, Kathleen Goodall, Dorothy Custance, Betty Cox, Maud Burley, Kitty Johnson, Isabel Crawford and Marion Mitchell. Photo by Duncan Macphail.

her with a table lamp, and Wilfred Cain, on behalf of the heavy gang, made the presentation of a cake plate and butter dish.

Tea was served by Miss E. Johnson and Miss B. Smithers, assisted by other members of the staff.

Miss Wood's marriage to Donald N. Sinclair took place December 27 at St. Anne's Anglican Church. She was attended by her sister, Miss Kathleen Wood, while William Sinclair supported the groom.

At the reception held in the Masonic Hall, Mrs. Alex Tranfield, Miss Frances and Cynthia Tranfield, Miss Enid Baylis and Miss Eunice Milligan were serviteurs. Frank Morgan proposed the toast to the bride.

Following a honeymoon in Victoria, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair have taken up residence at Qualicum Bay.

* * *



Miss Rose Maguire, of Victoria operating staff, and her brother, Walter, of Detroit, who recently visited together in Vancouver for the first time in 10 years.

Victoria Staff "Santa" to Orphans

Victoria lounge and cafeteria were very attractively decorated with a lighted Christmas tree, greenery and holly. Once more the staff played "Santa Claus" to the children of the Protestant Orphanage Home. Each girl drew the name of a child and sent an appropriate gift, gaily wrapped. Forty-one such gifts were supplied.

Numerous greeting cards were received by the staff from former members from all parts of the world. Boxes of chocolates, individual corsages, cheques and plants were sent as gifts from subscribers.

* * *

Mrs. G. C. Parks, "Mother of Parksville"

Mrs. George Cheney Parks, mother of Miss Catherine Cheney, retired local representative and chief operator at Parksville, was subject of a feature story by M. B. Cody in the January issue of the *Daily Colonist, Victoria.* Mrs. Parks, who is now 87 years of age, came to Vancouver Island almost 60 years ago to marry George Cheney. Following his death, she became the wife of George Parks, for whose father, Nelson Parks, Parksville was named. Mrs. Parks has witnessed the growth of the Parksville district from the time when "all was wilderness and settlers were few", and has earned for herself the title of "Mother of Parksville".

No Bother At All

The proverbial professor — one of the absent-minded type — was recently awakened by the telephone at 2 a.m. The caller inquired, "Is this one, one, one, one?"

"No", answered the professor. "It is eleven, eleven."

"Oh, pardon me," said the caller. "Wrong number. Sorry I disturbed you."

"That's all right, I had to get up anyway to answer the 'phone."

In Memoriam

George Williamson

BRITISH COLUMBIA lost one of its most colorful figures on November 22 with the death of George Williamson, once owner of a telephone system with exchanges in four eastern B. C. centres, and at the time of his retirement in 1933, B. C. Telephone Company local manager at New Denver.



George Williamson

After running cattle from Kaslo to New Denver in the early days with Pat Burns, Mr. Williamson settled down in New Denver and built a fortune from participation in various mining developments.

One of his many projects was a telephone system which in the early days had exchanges at New Denver, Sandon, Three Forks and Silverton. Later he sold out to the B. C. Telephone Company which appointed him manager for the territory in 1895.

George Williamson repaired the switchboard, installed telephones, maintained outside plant, kept records and collected the accounts. In addition, he found time to carry on his other business affairs and to keep a sharp eye on the stock market.

George's toll lines ran off into the hills of Slocan, where the snows are deep and the going heavy for a troubleman. But he was equal to the task, and right up to the time of his retirement, he battled drifts to repair trouble on the lines.

* * *

Percy C. Armstrong

PERCY CALVIN ARMSTRONG, who worked for the B. C. Telephone Company from 1910 to 1920 and later became superintendent of the Okanagan Telephone Company, died at Vernon in November after a long illness.

Born in Cypress, Man., and educated in Vancouver, Percy Armstrong's first job with the B. C. Telephone Company was as cable splicer's helper. A cable splicer himself when he left the company in 1920, he joined the Okanagan Telephone Company as construction foreman, and was appointed superintendent eight years later.

A keen hunter and first-class shot, Mr. Armstrong was a life member of the Vernon Fish, Game and Forest Protective Association. Besides his wife, who lives in Vernon, he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. M. Finnerty of Penticton.

* * *

Mrs. J. S. Crossan

ACKNOWLEDGMENT with thanks is extended through TELEPHONE TALK by J. S. Crossan of plant garage, Vancouver, for floral tributes received on the death of his wife last November from members of Chapter 53, Telephone Pioneers of America; Local 1-30, Federation of Telephone Workers of B. C.; Canadian (B. C.) Telephones and Supplies Ltd., and Mr. Crossan's fellow employees.

Member of a pioneer Comox family, Mrs. Crossan passed away on November 22. Funeral services were held under the auspices of the Pythian Sisters in the chapel of Simmons & McBride Ltd., with Rev. A. M. Sanford officiating. Interment was in Forest Lawn.

Besides Mr. Crossan, Mrs. Crossan leaves two sons, Ernest, plant department, Vancouver, and Ivan, with the R. C. A. F. at Edmonton, and three grandchildren.

* * *

Thomas Mitchell

THOMAS MITCHELL, retired telephone worker, passed away in Victoria on October 8. An installer with the Victoria plant department for over 28 years, Mr. Mitchell retired on pension in 1939.

John Egan, H. Silver, R. Chisholm, F. Pomeroy, W. Sturrock and J. Potts, of the Victoria plant staff, acted as pallbearers at the funeral.

Bell Stamp One of Twelve Best

CANADA'S commemorative stamp to Alexander Graham Bell has been chosen in a world-wide poll as one of the 12 best designs of all issued by all countries since 1939.

W. J. Turnbull, deputy postmaster-general, said he has received word from A. Stanley Deaville, chief of the United Kingdom Postage Stamp Division in London, that the large blue four-cent stamp placed fourth in the first balloting of its kind since before the war.

The Bell stamp was issued on the inventor's birthday last March.

Bouquets in Our Mail Bag

Grateful to Long Distance Operators

FROM a letter addressed to the B. C. Telephone Company:

"We would like to express our appreciation for the co-operation and splendid service your Long Distance operators gave us during the early hours of Sunday morning and Monday when my mother-in-law, Mrs. George A. Walkem, was in the wreck of the *Gulf Stream* at Powell River, and was injured.

"I wish you would pass on our thanks to your operators."

—R. J. BICKNELL,
Gulf of Georgia Towing Company Limited.

* * *

Praises Co-operation

FROM a letter received by Walter Jones, general plant manager:

"I wish to take this opportunity of expressing to you the appreciation of myself personally, and my company, for the splendid co-operation given by your entire organization in establishing the telephone service in our new office building here in Vancouver.

"The men who were on the job here constantly installing the new phones and the crew who worked overtime to move the switchboard, along with your foreman, were most co-operative and obliging. It was a pleasure to work with them.

"I want you to know that this has really been appreciated."

—F. G. BROOKS,
Director of Office Organization and Methods, Marshall-Wells Company.

(Working on this job were Harold Ranniger, foreman, with Percy Ward and Charles Horton, of the installation department, and Percy Turley, cable foreman, with Ted Morhouse and Jack Smith, splicers, and Reg Horne and Arnold Baptiste, helpers.)

* * *

Appreciates Grand Forks Service

FROM a letter received by the district manager at Nelson:

"This is just to express my appreciation of the very efficient service I received from the operators of the Grand Forks office last Saturday night and Sunday morning from 8.30 p.m. to 4 a.m. During this time I had cause to make a great many urgent calls, and the sympathetic and courteous service of your operators will not be forgotten by my wife and myself."

—E. S. REYNOLDS,
Grand Forks Post Office.

* * *

Thanks to Cloverdale Staff

FROM a letter received by the Cloverdale staff:

"The president and members of the Board have requested that I express to all members of the Cloverdale staff their sincere appreciation for the splendid work they are doing under the trying conditions prevailing at the present time.

"A complete picture of conditions was presented to the members at a meeting on November 20, at which Mr. MacPherson (your New Westminster manager) was the guest speaker.

"I am sure you will find White Rock a little more tolerant when calls are delayed for short periods."

—R. LEIGHTON YOUNG,
Secretary, White Rock Board of Trade.

* * *

Thanks from R. C. M. P.

FROM a letter received by C. B. Diplock, general manager:

"On behalf of all members of this Force stationed in British Columbia, may I express our sincere appreciation of the kind co-operation received from yourself and members of your organization during 1947.

"We hope that you enjoy a Merry Christmas and that prosperity will be yours in 1948."

—JOHN HEALEY,
Supt., Commanding "E" Division,
R. C. M. P.

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Statement of Development, January 1, 1948

British Columbia Telephone Co.	No. of Tels. Jan. 1, 1946	No. of Tels. Jan. 1, 1947	No. of Tels. Dec. 1, 1947	No. of Tels. Jan. 1, 1948
Abbotsford	506	577	695	707
Agassiz	163	184	215	220
Albion	311	334	421	424
Aldergrove	96	115	137	140
Balfour	16	20	27	27
Belmont	335	368	516	516
Bridge River Mines	126	154	176	176
Chase	43	53	60	62
Chemainus	370	411	505	511
Cloverdale	786	864	992	1,003
Cobble Hill	242	268	313	317
Colquitz	553	627	761	754
Courtenay	1,044	1,209	1,367	1,386
Cumberland	324	342	369	376
Duncan	1,526	1,727	1,858	1,865
Ganges	261	313	374	375
Golden	67	71	80	81
Grand Forks	273	282	315	312
Greenwood	55	55	61	67
Hammond	227	251	283	281
Haney	498	541	689	708
Hope	104	128	166	179
Invermere	93	110	140	140
Kamloops	2,215	2,440	2,674	2,687
Kaslo	93	116	145	145
Keating	339	368	448	445
Keremeos	72	86	101	102
Ladner	548	613	690	696
Ladysmith	438	480	564	563
Lake Cowichan	.....	.....	233	235
Langley	795	895	1,074	1,089
Mayne Island	70	92	100	101
Merritt	179	208	238	239
Nakusp	43	69	95	95
Nanaimo	3,032	3,279	3,508	3,511
Nelson	2,267	2,470	2,649	2,715
New Denver	79	85	105	107
New Westminster	7,194	7,912	9,090	9,304
North Vancouver	4,429	4,824	5,361	5,462
Oliver	270	350	422	423
Parksville	324	387	482	492
Port Alberni	2,141	2,405	2,652	2,677
Port Coquitlam	238	271	349	357
Port Moody	220	242	294	303
Princeton	179	208	239	246
Richmond	1,151	1,304	1,573	1,703
Rock Creek	34	39	38	39
Rossland	457	543	649	672
Sidney	638	604	722	722
Sooke	57	71	110	112
Trail	2,758	3,074	3,315	3,388
Vancouver	97,449	103,544	111,917	113,278
Victoria	23,894	24,953	26,573	26,944
West Vancouver	2,888	3,225	3,580	3,615
†Westwold	9	9	8	9
Toll Stations	616	668	632	630
Totals	163,135	174,838	191,150	193,736
Chilliwack Telephones Ltd.	1,329	1,446	1,821	1,852
Kootenay Telephone Co. Ltd.				
Cranbrook	580	647	721	729
Creston	277	312	428	441
Fernie	243	281	330	330
Kimberley	272	362	444	443
Michel	51	55	65	63
Toll Stations	35	40	46	46
Totals	1,458	1,697	2,034	2,052
North-west Telephone Co.				
Campbell River	130	186	278	280
Ocean Falls	154	168	195	205
Powell River	1,307	1,416	1,557	1,571
Prince George	528	614	755	824
Toll Stations	2	2	2	2
Totals	2,121	2,386	2,787	2,882
Mission Telephone Co. Ltd.	412	459	570	580
Totals for above companies	168,455	180,826	198,362	201,102
(Gain from January 1, 1947, to January 1, 1948, 11.2%)				
Connecting companies in B. C.	12,127	12,841	14,155	14,227
Totals including connecting companies	180,582	193,667	212,517	215,329

†Operated from Kamloops

1947 Was Record Year in Telephone Business Despite Shortages

Although the telephone industry was still handicapped by shortages of material and equipment, 1947 was a record year for the British Columbia Telephone Company and associated companies in B. C. A review of achievements for the past 12 months shows:

1. More telephones in our system than ever before—201,102 on January 1, 1948.
2. Greatest increase in telephone total in single year—20,276 in 1947. The highest previous gain was 12,371 in 1946.
3. Highest average number of local telephone calls per business day during year—over 1,194,000 in 1947. In 1946, the average was 1,051,000 calls, the previous record.
4. Highest total number of long distance calls handled in single year—5,322,265 in 1947. The previous record was set in 1946 with 4,712,764 calls.
5. More employees than in any previous year—4,000.